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SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 1904.

The Times-Dispatch takes the full Associated Press Service, the London Times War Service and the Hearst News General News Service and has its own correspondents throughout Virginia and North Carolina and in the leading cities of the country.

If you go to the mountains, seashore or country, have The Times-Dispatch go with you.

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The Spirit of the Constitution.

The late Constitutional Convention of Virginia was called in the noblest spirit of the Virginia people. It was called primarily and pre-eminently in the interests of pure politics and good government. It was called to remove from the politics of the State all obstacles in the way of this consummation. The convention was assembled in the same spirit, and it was that spirit which dominated and directed the proceedings and the conclusions of the members of that noble body of men. The obstacles were removed, and provision was made in the organic law for the uprooting of evil and for the promotion of good.

But the convention could not do more than declare the principles, make the fundamental rules, and provide for the necessary machinery. The execution of the laws and the operation of the machinery were necessarily committed to those who should direct the affairs of state in their various ramifications. No government can be better than the men who conduct it.

It is most gratifying, however, that the spirit which called the convention and which animated its members and directed them in their sacred work is now manifesting itself in the officers of government. But recently an ordinance was introduced in the legislative body of Richmond prohibiting persons employed by the municipal government from acting as members of political committees and of taking any official part in the conduct of elections.

More recently the State Board of Education adopted a resolution declaring that it will be the policy of that board not to elect to the office of division superintendent any member of a State, city or county political committee, or any man who actively devotes himself to partisan politics.

These are wise and virtuous provisions, and are encouraging to all citizens who have the best interests of the State at heart, who would see the spirit of the Constitutional Convention, the spirit of the Constitution itself, saturate and inspire and direct the public service.

Political parties are necessary, and each party must have its machinery and its men to operate it. But if we make the rule that party managers shall fill the offices of government and conduct the elections in which their own political interests are involved, the result inevitably will be a political oligarchy, antagonistic to Democracy, and utterly out of harmony with Democratic principles. Such an oligarchy is not to be tolerated in our form of government, and in order to prevent it there must be complete separation between those who manage the affairs of party and conduct elections and those who fill the offices. Our civil service list should be a roll of honor without the taint of suspicion. Officers of government, as other citizens, may take and should take an active interest in political affairs. But they should not participate in party management and in the conduct of elections. It ought to be the rule in Virginia that the acceptance of an office renders a citizen ineligible for any official position in a political party, and for the position of election judge. In any case between the Commonwealth of Virginia and any citizen thereof, the citizen in interest should be neither attorney nor judge.

The Rich Man's Son.

At this season of the year, when the public mind is more than usually turned toward the institutions of learning, various questions relating to such institutions are discussed. One of the most interesting of these questions of the present season is that of rich loafers in college, and a protest has been raised against them. A professor in Harvard University in a recent magazine article complains that the growth of wealth has brought to the college a number of attractive, pleasant lads "who show a remarkable and genial imperviousness to lasting impressions which do not connect themselves with athletics or society."

He says that their talk, except on athletics, is "self-centered and meager. These men do not necessarily take so-called social courses, but they develop a surprising capacity for drifting courteously through any course with the minimum of labor and permanent result."

Every man who has spent a year at college has met these rich fellows and has had occasion to observe their conduct, which is demoralizing no less to themselves than to others. The rich loafer in college is a menace. He lives in fine rooms and keeps on hand a pleasant supply of good things to eat, to drink, and to smoke. His room is a rendezvous for college loafers in general, and many a poor boy who would otherwise behave himself and pursue his studies is tempted by this sort of luxury to neglect his books and debauch himself in body and mind. The rich loafer in the college sets a terrible example, causes his associates who are poor to be dissatisfied and frequently to incur expenses beyond their means, sets up a false standard, and destroys the best influence of college life.

It is impossible for the management of a college, especially of a large university, to prevent such abuses. The remedy and the only remedy is in the hands of parents.

Wild Fruits of Virginia.

Among the many natural blessings of Virginia her wild fruits are not to be ignored. In the early summer the plums come and they are simply delicious. They are also rich in color, some being pink and others purple and others yellow. When washed and put in a glass dish they make a collection of rare beauty. They are juicy and sweet, and if eaten in moderation when ripe they are harmless.

"Later on come the wild cherries, which are small, but when thoroughly ripe are of good flavor.

The honeysuckle bushes produce what the boys call honeysuckle apples, and while they are insipid in taste, country lads are very fond of them, and they may be classed among the wild fruits.

In wild berries Dame Nature has been especially good to Virginia. First of all come the dewberries, which grow on running vines close to the ground. The dewberry is perhaps the sweetest of all our wild berries, and when full and ripe is not surpassed by any in flavor. Scarcely are the dewberries gone before the blackberries come in great profusion. They grow everywhere and may be had for the gathering. They make a delicious after-dinner dessert and a first-rate article of wine is manufactured from them. Besides blackberries, strawberries grow wild in some sections, and raspberries are not infrequently found on the roadside. One of the roads leading out of Richmond is lined for a considerable distance with wild strawberry vines. The wild strawberry is smaller and more acid than the cultivated variety, but it is very firm and entirely palatable.

Before the blackberries are gone the early crop of huckleberries comes on and the crop lasts practically throughout the summer. The huckleberry bushes are of various sizes, some assuming the proportion of small trees and others never attaining any considerable size. The size of the berries also varies according to the bush on which they grow, but large or small, the huckleberries are dainty and delicious, whether they be eaten raw or worked up into pies.

Mention should also be made of the mulberry, which is at least a favorite with boys and birds, although it is rather a low variety of fruit.

When the berry crop is gone the wild grapes come on, and they are good. The woods grape, known in some sections as the fox grape, abounds in various sections of Virginia. It grows in clusters, the individual grapes being about the size of a buck shot. After the frost strikes them they are very good to the taste and may be eaten from the bunch like corn from the cob-pulp, seeds, skin and all. The juice from these grapes makes a good article of wine. In the eastern section of the State the muscadine grows in abundance. This grape is akin to the famous superponing, having the same flavor, but is of a rich purple color, while the superponing is white. No grape is more beautiful in appearance than the muscadine, and when it is thoroughly ripe it is scarcely excelled by the superponing.

But we are talking too much. When one begins to talk of the good things of the Old Dominion, it is hard to know where to stop.

Parker's Chances.
Judge Parker, of New York, will go into the convention with a great show of strength. There will be 90 delegates, of whom 40 are uninstructed. At the opening of the convention the attitude of the delegates will be as follows:

Uninstructed	400
For Parker	270
For Hearst	151
For Cockrell (Missouri)	36
For Olney (Massachusetts)	32
For Wall (Wisconsin)	28
For Gray (Delaware)	6

Total..... 904
Necessary to nominate, 663.
Necessary to defeat a nomination, 332.

Judge Parker's instructed vote comes from New York, Indiana, Connecticut, Tennessee, Georgia, Alaska, Louisiana and Texas. The uninstructed vote comes from South Carolina, Montana, West Virginia, Maine, Pennsylvania, Oregon, New Jersey, Florida (6), Kansas, Ohio, District of Columbia, Alabama, Maryland, Nebraska, Michigan, Oklahoma, Colorado, Kentucky, Utah, Virginia, Vermont, Minnesota, North Dakota and North Carolina.

It is well known that the delegates from Virginia, Alabama and other States of the uninstructed list are for Parker, and his friends claim that he will have at least half of the uninstructed votes on the first ballot, which would give him a majority of all the votes and enable his friends to control the organization.

This would be greatly in Judge Parker's favor, and would most probably give him the nomination.

Disease and Suicide.
The chief medical examiner of the Royal Arcanum has recently made a report showing the number of members of that organization committing suicide during the past four years and the alleged causes. The following is the summary:

	1903	1902	1901	1900
Domestic troubles	16	9	12	6
Financial troubles	26	30	10	21
Intemperance	12	5	4	7
Out of employment	10	13	14	6
Ill health	61	41	61	44

It is interesting to note that more suicides were caused by ill health than by any other one trouble. Under this head, however, are embraced those who were insane, or supposed to be. The number of suicides known to have shown signs of insanity was 11. The number supposed to have been temporarily insane was 26. Out of a total of 40 suicides, disease is said to have been responsible for 357. By some physicians intemperance is regarded as disease, and if we add the number of suicides from this cause, we have a total of 215 suicides from bodily affliction. We take it that these statistics are fairly representative of general statistics on this subject, and the conclusion is that the more medical science does to prevent disease the fewer suicides there will be. Good mental, moral and physical health enables any man or woman to fight trouble with a stout and brave heart. It must be very rare that man of woman in good physical health and of sound mind deliberately puts an end to existence.

The Vine.

(Selected for The Times-Dispatch.)

"I am the true vine. Ye are the branches."—St. John, xv:1-5.

Was it a green tinted swaying across the window of that "upper room" which suggested to our Lord this way of describing Himself? Or was the fruit of the vine still upon the table? Or was it on the road to Gethsemane, when they saw the smoldering fires on Olivet, where the vine-dressers were bottling the day's pressings? Or was it to turn their minds to more spiritual thoughts that He used the chosen type of Israel in a deeper sense?

All that the rose is to the Englishman, or the thistle to the Scotch, or the shamrock to the Irish—all that and much more than that—was the vine to Israel. It was a picture of himself. It was a symbol of her history. It was a symbol of her duty and her ideal destiny.

In that fearful hour, under the combined pressure of inward feeling and outward circumstance, our Lord laid bare the depths of His heart concerning Himself.

A vine is precious to its owner, and Israel was dear to God. A vine cannot escape the pruning-knife. Israel did not escape sharp and dreadful discipline. It is a terrible thing to be the vine of God and to know it!

The vine is a fine parable of unselfishness—yes, more—it is utter self-sacrifice, the complete annihilation of self. Watch it as it grows! It makes no display of gay flowers. It is not allowed to grow freely, but tied to a stake and its arms bound as if to a cross. As its clusters form the husbandman quickly comes with shears and pruning hook to thin out the bunches and to strip from it even the modest glory that God has given it.

Then at last comes the hour when the grapes are ripe. May it not retain its wealth for a little space to show what it has achieved? But no!

"The hands stand ready to tear down the treasures of the grapes; the feet are there to tread them in the wine press, gathered in; until the blooded rivers of the wine run over and the land is full of joy. But the vine is stripped and desolate, having given all."

Our Lord was thus the true vine. He loved others better than He loved Himself; and though it involved the cross for Him, He was willing to spend Himself for the redemption of the human race.

The vine is the picture of fruitfulness. The fencing, the binding, the thinning out, and all the discipline of the vine-life is for one end—to produce perfect and abundant fruit. If it fails in that it is an absolute failure.

The suffering of our Lord had this end in view—for suffering in itself He had no love; He never went out of His way to seek it. But when it was God's will, when it came as the result and test of obedience, He bowed His head and bared His bosom to it all.

Leafless, fruitless, lifeless seemed the stock of the world's great vine—but has it not borne its fruit? Ask that world to-day! "And ye see the branches." Then the same spirit must reign in us as was revealed in Him. We must put in all things the will of God before our will. We must love our neighbors as we love ourselves. There are some who are far into this secret; self is cast out; self-will is crucified; the sign of the cross is upon all they say and do. Some are sufferers, not murmuring, not rebelling, but waiting quietly, trusting peacefully through long days and nights of pain. Some are active helpers in the world, visiting the sick, patient with the fretful and forward, taking constant thought for the needy. Some are full of missionary spirit, caring little for loneliness or danger or toil or death in the burning passion to proclaim Christ.

In one aspect all who have believed in His name, are the fruit of the vine, because all good that is in them is the result of His past and present ministry. And again they are the branches, because He expects that they shall bear fruit in their turn and thus farther extend the blessings of His kingdom and the glory of His name.

Every word of truth, every custom of helpfulness, every beneficent institution, every joy or blessing is but another example of the varied and abundant fruitfulness of Christ, the true vine.

To be a branch, means duty and responsibility. To be a branch of the true vine is to be in contact with the life of God, the sap of grace and the source

SKIN TORTURES

Thousands of wretched people are miserably driven almost mad by the terrible itching and burning sensation of Eczema and other skin diseases. Many imagine they are suffering from bad blood, when as a matter of fact the blood has nothing to do with it. These awful tortures are caused by little germs that attack the skin externally, which can be rooted out in a hurry, leaving the skin clear, soft and healthy. Such misery now cleared away as surely as the sun shines above. Not merely attempted, not a matter of improvement merely, not a temporary relief—but a clearing of it all away absolutely and permanently.

THE D. D. D. PRESCRIPTION

A specific formula, put up in sealed bottles with authentic label, has proven to be the only certain cure for these diseases. Its second effect is astonishing, amazing, almost miraculous. It is a liquid, used externally, non-greasy.

Cleansed within one month.

For a number of years my husband has been suffering with a terrible case of eczema. He had doctoring with the best skin specialists in the city, but they could not even stop the itching. I was told by a friend of the D. D. D. treatment and began using it once, the first few applications eased the itching, and in a month's time his flesh was as clear as could be.

Yours truly,
MRS. S. J. HEATHE,
61 Pine St.

Rutland, Vt., Oct. 17, 1903.

We not only sell at retail, but also supply druggists at wholesale prices. D. D. D. costs but \$1.00 a bottle, and is guaranteed to cure or money refunded.

TRAGLE DRUG CO.,

817 E. Broad St. 21 W. Broad St.

"Wholesale and Retail Distributors."

of that strength, which can never fail. It means that by His Word and His spirit, He will be with them to abide in them, to do the work of the world.

Do you know it? Are you willing to seek and possess it? Then, in moments of weakness, pray, "Give me Thy strength, O Lord!"—In times of meditation, "Thy patience, O Lord," in the moments of unrest, "Thy peace, O Lord," and in moments of temptation, "Thy purity, O Lord." So let us ever get the graces of the Son of Man over against our own gracelessness, not only as a rebuke, but as a promise and a plea.

It is reported from Boston that Miss Helen Keller, the gifted deaf, dumb and blind student, whose achievements have been the wonder of the world, is on the verge of nervous prostration, and it has brought the greatest disappointment of her life. She began to fail two months ago, and was ordered by her physician to abstain from college work, the result being that, instead of getting from Radcliffe College a degree "Summa Cum Laude," she is not assured of even the degree itself.

Too bad. Such perseverance as this gifted woman has shown deserves the highest award of merit.

The Suffolk Herald notes that the business department of the Suffolk High School, which has just closed, turned out five graduates, all of whom were girls. There was not a boy or a man in the lot. This has a double significance. It indicates not merely that women are going into business in competition with men, but that they are giving themselves better preparation. That is one of the most serious problems in the South to-day. Time was when the men went out to work and the women were kept at home, and those were the most glorious days of Southern chivalry.

The Wisconsin contest in the Chicago convention brought out some interesting facts. For instance, it was shown that Senator Spooner, of that State, has for years been a kind of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, and while acting as senator has been drawing pay as a railway lobbyist.

Republican papers are claiming that there was "no sharp political work done at Chicago." Certainly not. It was all finished up at the White House long before the convention met in Chicago.

An astronomer at the Lick Observatory announces his discovery of 100 double stars. We have known men, who were not astronomers, to think they had seen double stars.

Virginians are patronizing the World's Fair with a liberality that is a little out of proportion to the sparseness of the furniture in Virginia's transplanted Monticello.

Your Uncle Grover may be in retirement to a certain extent, but you may be sure he knows pretty well what the good people are saying about him.

The Roanoke cow is continuing to butt the hundred thousand dollar depot off the track.

SHE'S TROUBLED NO MORE

When I was elected mayor of one of the largest cities of this country I took office free from pledges of any kind. Political exigency and public clamor compelled the leaders of my party to seek for a business man to head the city ticket. To my surprise, for I had not sought the office, I was nominated. As there was small hope of electing one of our party, the party leaders had not attempted to tie me down with pledges of patronage. So I was a business man, and I was under no obligations to no man or set of men.

The vote was close, and it was not until the returns from the last ward came in that our campaign manager, who had been keeping his hand on the reins, leaped forward and said: "Mr. Mayor, you are elected."

They told me afterwards that I took the news calmly; that I accepted the proffered hands and vociferous congratulations with the nonchalance of an old political campaigner. But I cannot recall what occurred during those first moments. I sat, mentally and physically benumbed. As I look back now I see that this curious condition was the result of a psychological revolution. I was resigning my individuality.

For some weeks my personality had been completely effaced. In those fevered hours, the high pressure days in the cyclone filled with the campaign, I was not a human being. I was an issue. In my hurried speeches, even following evening, when I spoke of myself, and what

There was a young girl from Bon Air, who had trouble in fixing her hair; but when she had it fixed, she was a beauty. And they used it in stuffing a chair.

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MAKERS OF RICHMOND

Brief Sketches With Portraits, of Men Who Have Helped to Make the City.

Judge George L. Christian is worthy of a place high up on the roll of the men who have helped to make Richmond what it is. He is thoroughly devoted to the city, deeply interested in its welfare, and has always entered heartily into what he believed was for Richmond's good.

Judge Christian has spent nearly all of his life in Richmond, having come here in 1850 from his native county, Charles City. He entered the Richmond Howitzer at the beginning of the war, rose to the rank of sergeant, and was with his company in every battle in which it was engaged until he was so severely wounded near the "Bloody Angle," at Spotsylvania Courthouse, May 12, 1864, that he was rendered unfit for further military service.

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